



**Winston H. Hickox**  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

# State Water Resources Control Board

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## Division of Clean Water Programs

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**Gray Davis**  
Governor

**TO:** Regional Water Quality Control Board UST Program Managers  
and Local Oversight Program Managers

**FROM:** Elizabeth L. Haven, Manager  
Underground Storage Tank Programs  
**DIVISION OF CLEAN WATER PROGRAMS**

**DATE:**

**SUBJECT:** REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD UST PROGRAM  
MANAGERS AND LOCAL OVERSIGHT PROGRAM MANAGERS

In July 1996 we requested that you add MTBE to the list of gasoline components which are being monitored at your open gasoline UST release sites. Because of growing concern about other oxygenates we now request that you add the other ether oxygenates [diisopropyl ether (DIPE), tertiary amyl methyl ether (TAME), and ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE)] as well as tertiary butyl alcohol (TBA) to the list of gasoline components to be monitored. Where initial monitoring indicates the presence of any of these compounds, continued assessment would be appropriate as with MTBE. The appropriate analytic test method is USEPA Method 8260. We know that several agencies are already requiring such monitoring.

In a January 18, 2000 memorandum (attached), the USEPA Office of Underground Storage Tanks suggested assessing for other oxygenates. Following this memorandum and a request from the Santa Clara Valley Water District, we consulted with the State Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment regarding concentrations of concern for these compounds.

To date, there is limited scientific information to establish health-based screening levels for DIPE, TAME and ETBE. However, these ethers have similar physical characteristics to MTBE in terms of the taste and odor detection levels. The DHS has established 12 parts per billion as an action level for TBA. An action level is a health-based advisory level established by DHS for chemicals for which primary drinking water standards have not been established.

To determine the need to request the development of primary and/or secondary drinking water standards for DIPE, TAME and ETBE, we request that you report the results of monitoring for

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these ethers as well as TBA so that we can assess the extent of the problem. Fields created in GEIMS for reporting monitoring results for MTBE will also accommodate the reporting of these ethers and TBA.

Finally, where new releases are suspected in an area being supplied with ethanol as a gasoline additive, ethanol should be monitored. We have asked the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for guidance on analytical methods for ethanol. We will forward that guidance to you once it is prepared.

If you have questions or comments related to this request, please call Ms. Kim Ward at (916) 227-4319.

Attachment

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